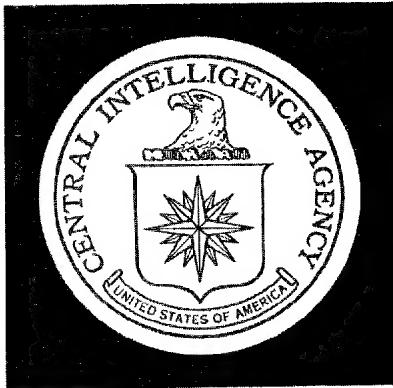


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DIRECTORATE OF
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1. SOMALI REPUBLIC

The election of former prime minister Abdirascid (1960-1964) as president of the Somali Republic may signal new tensions and troubles for the Horn of Africa.

Abdirascid as prime minister was an emotional and erratic leader, who in the early years of his regime was considered pro-West but has since become--through his frustrations with the West--a radical supporter of the UAR and the Communist bloc. Abdirascid is also a militant agitator for Somalia's irredentist claims on Somali-inhabited territories in neighboring Kenya, Ethiopia, and French Somaliland, and his election reduces any likelihood of a negotiated settlement of these problems. His support of Somali guerrilla activities led to direct clashes between regular military forces of Ethiopia and Somalia in the spring of 1964.

In 1963 he pushed Somalia to accept from the USSR a \$35-million military aid program and a \$52-million economic development program, thus enabling the Soviets to gain substantial influence in Somalia.

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Abdirascid is committed to appoint Mohamed Egal, a prominent and able northern politician, as prime minister. Some observers believe Egal may exert a steady influence on Abdirascid.

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2. EAST ASIA

The question of developing regional organizations to promote the common interests of non-Communist Asian nations recently has stimulated both increased discussion and competition for leadership. Existing groups, as well as proposed new organizations, offer an opportunity for broadening contacts among non-Communist leaders, but so far they carry little promise for achieving their lofty goals of furthering economic and social progress.

Indonesia, an outsider to regional groupings formed during Sukarno's rule, is now cooperating with Thailand in pushing for a Southeast Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SEAARC), which would also include Malaysia and the Philippines. Indonesia prefers the prestige of being a founding member of SEAARC and the opportunity it provides to play a dominant role in the organization to joining either the existing Association of Southeast Asia, which links the other three nations, or the broader nine-member Asian and Pacific Council (ASPAC).



Even while jockeying with one another for the initiative, the Asian nations share a desire to develop regional strength to counterbalance Chinese power and influence. They probably also believe that a regional approach to economic problems will help them obtain more US aid than they could get through individual efforts.



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